

REMARKS

Claims 2-4, 8, 9, 12-16 and 18-20 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 2-4, 8, 9, 12-16 and 18 are amended, dependent claims 19 and 20 are added, and claims 1, 5-7, 10, 11 and 17 are cancelled. Claims 2, 8 and 12 have been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the features from their previous independent claim, as well as any previous intervening claims. The other claims have been amended to improve their grammar and in view of the amendments to the original claims. New claims 19 and 20 are similar to original claims 6 and 16, respectively, but depend on different claims than claims 6 and 16. In addition, the specification has been amended to correct informalities therein. Thus, no new matter is added by the above amendments.

I. Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner is requested to consider the reference identified in the Information Disclosure Statement filed with this Amendment.

II. All Pending Claims are Patentable

Applicant notes with appreciation the identification of allowable subject matter in claims 2, 8, 9, 12 and 13. As noted above, claims 2, 8 and 12 have been rewritten in independent form, and thus these claims as well as the remaining pending claims, which depend from claims 2, 8 and 12, respectively, are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1, 3-7, 14, 15 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,001,635 to d'Auria et al. Claims 10, 11, 16 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over d'Auria et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,322,258 to Bosch et al. These rejections are moot in view of the above amendments.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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MAC/ccs

Attachment:
Information Disclosure Statement

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